

# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE**

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## **VIRGINIA'S ROW CROP YIELDS DOWN FROM 2004**

Based on conditions as of October 1, Virginia producers expect row crops to have lower yields compared to last year. Corn yields are forecast to average 124 bushels per acre, down 14 percent from last years 145 bushels per acre. If realized, production would be 44.6 million bushels down 14 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 360,000 acres in 2005, unchanged from last year.

Cotton producers currently expect to harvest 92,000 acres with an average yield of 704 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 135,000 bales, down 16 percent from last year.

Virginia's soybean yields are expected to be 30 bushels per acre which is 23 percent lower than last year. Production is estimated at 15.6 million bushels, down 25 percent from 2004. Harvested acres is at 520,000, is down 10,000 acres from last year.

The forecasted peanut yield of 2,800 pounds per acre is down 14 percent from 2004. Production is forecast at 61.6 million pounds, down 41 percent from last year. Harvesting activities have begun with 33 percent of the crop combined.

Alfalfa hay production is expected to be down 16 percent from last year to 370,000 tons. The forecasted yield for other hay is 2.4 tons per acre. Other hay production is forecast at 2.86 million tons, up slightly from 2004.

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,450 pounds per acre, down 55 pounds from 2004. Production is estimated to be 34.3 million pounds, down 41 percent from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco yield is forecast at 2,250 pounds, up 355 pounds from the 2004 estimate. If realized, production would total 788 thousand pounds, down 41 percent from last year.

Burley tobacco producers expect to average a yield of 1,700 pounds per acre from 2,700 acres. Production is forecast at 4.6 million pounds, down nearly 3.61 million pounds from last year.

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**Corn Production Up 2 Percent from September**  
**Soybean Production Up 4 Percent from September**  
**Cotton Production Up 2 Percent from September**

U.S. corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but 8 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 146.1 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from September but 14.3 bushels below last year. Forecast yields are either unchanged or higher than last month in all forecasting States, except Alabama and Mississippi. As harvest progresses, producers are finding the warm, dry conditions during July and August did not reduce yields as much as originally expected. Yields are better than last year in the northern tier States but are still well below last year's record highs in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, up 15,000 acres from September and up 1 percent from 2004.

U.S. soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the September forecast but 5 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average 41.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from September but 0.6 bushel below last year's record high yield. Below-normal temperatures and adequate moisture during August and early September across most of the Corn Belt, Great Plains, and Delta were beneficial to the crop during the final stages of development. Above-normal temperatures followed for the rest of September, just in time for the harvest season to begin. Based on administrative data, acreage updates were made in several States. Area planted is now estimated at 72.2 million acres, down 903,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.3 million acres, down 914,000 acres from September.

Revised 2004 soybean acreage, yield, and production were published in the September 30, 2005 Grain Stocks report. All U.S. Cotton production is forecast at 22.7 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from the September forecast but 2 percent below last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 797 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last month but down 58 pounds from 2004. The October area expected for harvest remains unchanged from last month at 13.7 million acres but is up 5 percent from 2004.

All U.S. Cotton production is forecast at 22.7 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from the September forecast but 2 percent below last year's record high production. Yield is expected to average 797 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last month but down 58 pounds from 2004. The October area expected for harvest remains unchanged from last month at 13.7 million acres but is up 5 percent from 2004.

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